



The Greene Consulting Group

Solar, Construction, Management

Proponent Testimony by **Dean Greene** on House Bill 197
President, The Greene Consulting Group Inc
House Public Utilities Committee
September 20, 2023

Chairman Stein, Vice-Chair Blasdel, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on behalf of House Bill 197 (HB 197), a bill to Establish Community Solar Pilot and Solar Development Programs. My name is Dean Greene, and I am President of **The Greene Consulting Group Inc.**

I have been in the Solar Industry since 1977 and have worked with solar and investment companies across the country. We do consulting and design, build fields, and rooftop solar.

I have seen many changes in the industry over the years and one thing that has helped with the growth of the business is Community Solar with Virtual Net Metering. It gives people that otherwise could not take advantage of solar the ability to do so. Homeowners and Businesses alike can take advantage of the savings. Not everyone owns the building they are in at this time. With Community Solar the electric customer can purchase their electricity at a discounted rate without owning the property at the service address. The savings come when the Solar Developers build a solar field (which costs less than a rooftop system) and sell portions of the electricity production from the field to multiple people and businesses. This will allow investors to put their money to work in Ohio instead of a different state. This will create local jobs for years to come as the systems will last for 30 to 40 years and will require monitoring and maintenance. Solar fields will also help with grid resilience as solar produces electricity during the peak use hours of the day. Additionally, battery backup systems can be added to help lessen the chances of blackouts during extraordinary conditions.

I have contacts with many investors that would like to invest in Ohio. Per the Inflation Reduction Act a great portion of Ohio qualifies for additional tax incentives as an Energy Community and/or LMI Community. The State of Ohio needs the ability to have Community Solar with Virtual Net metering to provide an economical means of accomplishing this. There has been several solar companies created in the Lawrence County area since Honeywell installed a 1 mw solarfield on a remediated site 2 years ago. It brought much interest to the community, and jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on behalf of HB 197. I am happy to answer your questions.